

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 EUR-25 MC-02

SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 PPT-02 SY-10 CCO-00 DRC-01

USSS-00 /170 W

----- 130418

P R 171600Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4785

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12215

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PMIL PINS XF LE US

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN LEBANON - SITREP 5

REF: BEIRUT 12143

SUMMARY: POPULAR ANTI-AMERICAN REACTION HAS LOST SOME OF VIRULENCE AS RESULT OF MODERATE SPEECH BY SADAT, CONTINUED MODERATE TONE OF RADIOS CAIRO AND DAMASCUS, PUBLICITY GIVEN TO SECRETARY'S REMARKS ABOUT NO DIRECT AMERICAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT, AND CALMING EFFORTS BY GOL. GOL ALSO CONTINUING EFFORTS RESTRAIN FEDAYEEN BUT ENCOUNTERING USUAL TWO-FACED BEHAVIOUR BY FEDAYEEN  
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LEADERS. END SUMMARY.

1. GOL HAS BEEN WORKING HARD KEEP LID ON NEGATIVE POPULAR REACTION TO NEWS OF USG ARMS RESUPPLY. ON OCT 16 PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR HELD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH FEDAYEEN AS WELL AS WITH KEY GOL SECURITY OFFICIALS, STRESSING NEED FOR CALM AND AVOIDANCE ATTACKS ON AMERICANS. PROTECTION INCREASED AROUND EMBASSY AND KEY AMERICAN BUSINESS INSTALLATIONS. MINISTRY INFO CONTINUING DO WHAT IT CAN TO CALM VERY FREE LOCAL PRESS AND IN CONTROLLING TV AND RADIO COMMENT. GOL OFFICIALS SHARED OUR CONCERN (BEIRUT 12163) OVER NEGATIVE IMPACT ANY CHANGE IN RESTRAINED LINE TAKEN BY CAIRO AND DAMASCUS. THEY NOW SHARE OUR RELIEF THAT TONE HAS NOT CHANGED, DESPITE USG RESUPPLY DECISION. GOL ALSO CALLING FOR RESTRAINT BY VARIOUS LEFT-WING GROUPS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENTS OF GOL OFFICIALS AND POPULAR LEADERS HAVE GENERALLY FOLLOWED THOSE EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR BY PRIME MINISTER (BEIRUT 12183). EVEN SUCH PRO-WESTERN CHRISTIAN LEADERS AS PIERRE GEMAYEL AND RAYMOND EDDE HAVE PUBLICLY CRITICIZED USG POLICY AS BEING PRO-ISRAELI. THEY ASKED WHY USG FAILED SUPPORT ARABS IN FACE 1967 ISRAELI ATTACK. NEVERTHELESS, ALL RESPONSIBLE LEADERS CALLING FOR CALM AND RESTRAINT.

2. COMBINATION OF FACTORS NOTED ABOVE HAS REDUCED SOMEWHAT TENSION WHICH SO NOTICEABLY BUILDING UP OCT 16. NO RPT NO ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS REPORTED; NOR ANY ATTACKS OR HARASSMENT OF AMERICANS. POTENTIAL FOR POPULAR FLARE-UP AND VIOLENCE REMAINS AND COULD CHANGE AT ANY TIME. BUT FOR MOMENT, AT LEAST, WE UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN LEFT-WING GROUPS ARE BIDDING TIME RATHER THAN TRY STIR EMOTIONS AS THEY HAD BEEN DOING.

3. AMERICAN CITIZENS CONTINUE DISPLAY NERVOUSNESS BUT ONLY SMALL NUMBER RESIDENTS AMERICANS HAVE LEFT LEBANON TO DATE. EMBASSY'S CONTINGENCY VERIFICATION OF NUMBERS AND WHEREABOUTS AMERICAN CITIZENS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. VERY FEW SHIPS IN PORT. FLIGHTS INTO BEIRUT HAVE BEEN REDUCED BOTH FOR LACK OF PASSENGERS AS WELL AS FOR SECURITY. LOCAL POPULATION BEGINNING HOARD SOME BASIC COMMODITIES.  
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4. GOL EFFORTS RESTRAINT FEDAYEEN FROM ATTACKING ISRAEL ACROSS LEBANESE BORDER CONTINUING. PRIME MINISTER, MIN INTERIOR AND ARMY REPS REPORTEDLY TOLD FEDAYEEN LEADERS, INCLUDING MOHSEN OF SA'QA AND 'ARAFAT OF FATAH, TO STOP ACTION FROM LEBANON AND COMPLY WITH EARLIER PROMISES TO OPERATE OUT OF EGYPT AND SYRIA. FEDAYEEN LEADERS REPORTEDLY GAVE USUAL PROMISES TO COMPLY, PLEADED

STANDARD LINE OF ILL-DISCIPLINE AMONG RANKS, AND LEFT ARMY  
REPS WITH LITTLE CONFIDENCE THAT "PROMISES" WOULD BE  
RESPECTED. ON OTHER HAND, WE HAVE HAD NO RPT NO COM-PLAINTS FROM GOL  
ABOUT IDF HARASSING FIRE AND OTHER  
MILITARY ACTION ALONG FRONT. LEBANESE ARMY CONTINUES  
THINK FEDAYEEN ACTION MAINLY SYMBOLIC AND POLITICAL,  
WITH FEW GUERILLAS HAVING DESIRE AND ABILITY UNDERTAKE  
SERIOUS ACTION. BUFFUM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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